



Fast Facts

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES

HEALTHY FAMILIES PROGRAM

On July 1, 1998, California's new Healthy Families Program joined forces with Medi-Cal for Children to provide low-cost and no-cost comprehensive health care coverage to the state's most vulnerable population – low-income, uninsured children under 19 years of age. This effort is funded in part by a federal allocation of state grants known as the Children's Health Insurance Program. The Healthy Families Program is administered by the Managed Risk Medical Insurance Board, while Medi-Cal for Children and the education and outreach campaign for Healthy Families are administered by the California Department of Health Services.

California's Low-Cost Plan to Protect Its Children

- Healthy Families is California's health coverage program for low-income, uninsured children. The program offers medical, dental, and vision care coverage - for a small premium - to children who are under 19 years of age and whose families earn too much to qualify for no-cost Medi-Cal but do not earn enough to afford private health coverage.
- Healthy Families subsidizes commercial health insurance coverage through a purchasing pool for an estimated 639,000 eligible uninsured children.
- Healthy Families contracts with 25 health plans, 4 dental plans, and 1 vision plan statewide. Eligible families may choose from any of the plans available in their county.
- Healthy Families is California's biggest health care expansion in more than 30 years.

Application Process

- Families may apply for the Healthy Families Program or Medi-Cal for Children by using a mail-in application. Applications and other program materials are available in 11 languages.
- A toll-free number (1-888-747-1222) provides easy access to trained staff who can help families complete their application.
- Applications may be obtained by phoning the toll-free number or picking one up at a participating community-based organization.

Eligibility

Children are eligible if they are:

- under 19 years of age;
- California residents and U.S. citizens, nationals, or eligible qualified aliens;
- in families with incomes between 100 and 250 percent of the federal poverty level;
- not eligible for no-cost Medi-Cal; and
- not covered by employer-sponsored insurance for the preceding three months.

Benefits

- Full coverage for preventive care, hospitalization, physician, medical, and surgical services, as well as prescription drugs.
- Dental, hearing, and vision care coverage.
- Affordable monthly premiums, ranging from \$4 - \$9 a child per month to a maximum of \$27 per family.
- Co-payment of \$5 (no co-payment for preventive care or hospital services).